PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s)

Rudnick et al.

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Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Date February 10, 2004 Label No. EV261767281US I hereby certify that on the date indicated above I deposited this paper or fee

with the U.S. Postal Service and that it was addressed for delivery to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 by "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE to

ADDRESSEE " service.

Sir:

The present submission is being made to accompany a continuation application filed concurrently herewith, claiming priority to co-pending application Serial No. 09/977,823, filed October 15, 2001. Prior to calculating the filing fee for this application, please amend the application as follows:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 6 of this paper and include an attached new drawing sheet.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.